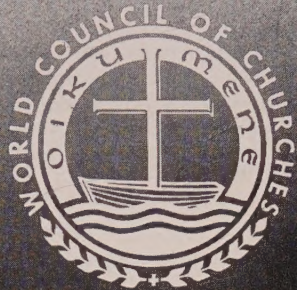


The Ecumenical COURIER



July — August, 1952

Vol. II, No. 4

HENRY SMITH LEIPER LEAVING WORLD COUNCIL STAFF

Since this is to be the last issue of the *COURIER* which will carry my name as editor, I have been asked by my associates to write a short parting editorial. Some of those who read this have been partners on the long road of more than two decades during which time together, with faith and hope and patience, we have seen the dream of many centuries beginning to be realized in the World Council of Churches.

It is heartening to realize how rapidly the movement has arisen. On the foundations laid by one hundred and thirty years of expanding missionary activity across the world—the present structure has been built. As William Temple, first President of the Council, often pointed out, the resulting fellowship “corresponds to St. Paul’s vision.” And, as he insisted, no human mind planned it. God put it into the hearts of our greatest prophetic individuals to see the importance of some kind of relationship between the separate parts of this “world Church.”

It has been my privilege over more than forty years to know practically all of them personally—Mott, Soederblom, Temple, Paton, Brent, Speer, North, Boegner, Deissmann, and many others. These have been God-given leaders. But without followers and supporting colleagues they would have been voices crying in the

wilderness. In all sincerity I believe it to be true that the lay men and women—particularly women—in the local churches, large and small, across this and other lands, who have devoted their gifts and their prayers to bring the vision to pass, are just as truly responsible for the progress that has been made as are those the world acclaims.

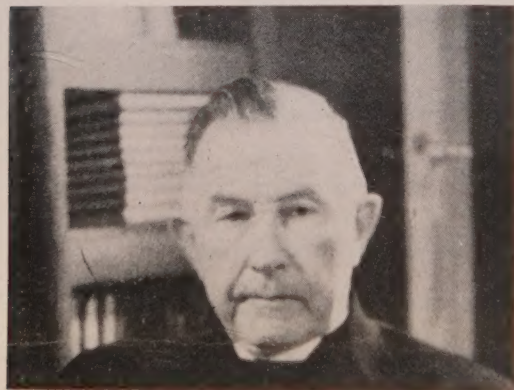
I am in no sense leaving the World Council, although I do cease in a few weeks to hold a place on its staff which has been my life for so many years. It is still my responsibility and my privilege to contemplate close association and active participation but from a new base of operations provided by the Missions Council of my own Church.

In consequence I am not saying “farewell!” My colleagues have urged that I continue as an officer of the “Friends of the World Council.” I shall sit with certain committees and keep in the closest possible touch with the varied activities of the Council itself. You may even be getting letters from me from time to time! I hope they will serve not only to keep you in touch with the advancing work, but to stimulate your desire to continue as active participants and supporters, advocates and interpreters.

In all humility we may say that God has

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THE ECUMENICAL COURIER is a bi-monthly bulletin published by the World Council of Churches, Conference of U.S.A. Member Churches, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y. Dr. Henry Smith Leiper, General Secretary; Elsie Thomas Culver, Secretary for Public Relations. The Council unites 158 Protestant and Orthodox denominations in 43 countries. Neither the COURIER nor the World Council of Churches is responsible for opinions quoted in its columns.



BISHOP EIVIND BERGGRAV

GOD'S LAW— FOR MEN AND NATIONS

"On the surface modern life is selfish and materialistic, based on the logic that man is master of his life and is his own lawgiver. But look below the surface and you will find more and more people in every walk of life who are becoming convinced that man is *not* his own lawgiver, and that men and nations must recognize the fundamental law of the Creator as the sole foundation of human law. The law of God stands above all human legislation and is not subject to the approval or disapproval of political leaders. . . .

"It is up to you and me to take responsibility. We cannot transfer the whole matter to the United Nations and to the governments. We are democrats and the decision lies with the people, that is to say, with you, and this is in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ. . . ."

BISHOP EIVIND BERGGRAV of Norway
over the British Broadcasting Company

GETTING TOGETHER

The United Evangelical Lutheran Church, at its 56th annual convention at Albert Lea, Minn. June 17-22, voted unanimously in favor of merger with other members of the American Lutheran Conference.

UELC is the body which initiated the union negotiations four years ago, recommending organic union of the five church bodies associated in the American Lutheran Conference. The Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Free Church have already approved the proposal, but the Augustana Lutheran Church turned down the plan for a five-way merger, to work toward the goal of complete unification of American Lutheranism.

The American Lutheran Church will vote on the merger proposals at its biennial convention in October. It is not yet known what the ELC, LFC, UELC and ALC will do about Augustana's request that the unity discussions be broadened to include all Lutheran general bodies, as well as its request that the question of ecumenical relations be considered in such discussions. Some observers expect the four churches to go ahead with a four-way merger.

Prospects for union of the three largest Presbyterian bodies moved a step forward when the General Assemblies of both the Presbyterian (U.S.) and the United Presbyterian Church decided to work toward united programs in evangelism, stewardship, pulpit exchange and the provision of chaplains for the armed forces. A similar plan had previously been ratified by the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. The three churches hope to have a plan of union ready for consideration at their General Assemblies next year.

The General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches, at its biennial meeting at Claremont, California, voted 964 to 55 to continue merger negotiations with the Evangelical and Reformed Church. The executive committee of the General Council was instructed to meet with the executive committee of the General Council of the Evangelical and Reformed Church to work out a draft constitution to be submitted to the membership of both communions for discussion and suggestions.

I.M.C. MEETS AT WILLINGEN

As this issue of the COURIER goes to press, the meeting of the enlarged committee of the International Missionary Council begins its important sessions in Willingen, Germany. The following report concerning the opening sessions comes from the Rev. Russell Stevenson:

After two years of intensive preparation and study, the enlarged committee of the International Missionary Council held its opening session in the main hall of the little German village of Willingen, where the conference was officially constituted.

The conference was opened with prayer by the Rev. Hassan Dehqani-Tafti, the youth correspondent of the Near East Christian Council and a pastor of the Church Missionary Society in Isfahan, Iran. Following this opening prayer, the delegates prayed together the Lord's prayer, each in his own tongue. It was a thrilling testimony to the unity that we all have in Christ as missionaries, national leaders from the younger churches and mission board executives, representing 175 churches from all over the world, prayed together. In this modern replica of Pentecost one could hear the sounds of Arabic, Urdu, Tamil, Swedish, French, German and English, to mention but a few of the scores of languages represented.

The opening words of welcome were given by the Rev. John A. Mackay, Chairman of the I.M.C. and president of Princeton Theological Seminary. This is the first representative international church or missionary gathering to be held in Germany in more than a century. Gratitude was expressed for the courtesy of the German church leaders in agreeing that English be designated as the official language of the conference.

Of the 50 countries with official representation, the United States, with 25, had the largest single delegation.

At the opening business session the general theme "The Missionary Obligation of the Church" was adopted. Since this meeting of the

enlarged committee is primarily a study conference, the delegates were assigned to the various study groups which have been set up. There are five major "theme" groups around which the discussion will center. These include:

1. The Missionary Obligation of the Church (Dr. Paul Lehman, Princeton Theological Seminary, Chairman).
2. The Indigenous Church (Dr. David G. Moses, Hislop College, India, Chairman).
3. The Role of the Missionary Society (Rev. C. Rendtorff, Danish Mission Council, Chairman).
4. Missionary Vocation (Rev. Gwenyth Hubble, Cary Hall, England, Chairman).
5. Reviewing the Pattern of Missionary Activity (Dr. Eugene Smith, Meth. Bd. of Foreign Missions, U.S.A., Chairman).

Delegates were also assigned to work in one of six different "area" groups. These include the various major geographical areas around the world where missionary work is now carried on.

Following the opening business session, the delegates were given a statement on the background of the Willingen conference by Dr. Norman Goodall, the London Secretary of the I.M.C. "This conference is not to be thought of as a terminus," said Dr. Goodall, "but rather a milestone." Dr. Goodall stressed the fact that not all the final answers men hope for would be forthcoming from Willingen. "Nevertheless," he said, "the delegates had arrived in an expectant mood. They were hoping to receive both inspiration and practical guidance for situations that are desperately urgent. We must continually ask for new vision, for new power, and for prophetic understanding as we inquire, 'Lord, what wilt Thou have me do?'"

At the close of Dr. Goodall's address, the delegates were led in a devotional period by the conference chaplain, Bishop S.V. Barbieri of Brazil and Uruguay.

"AGILE FEET FOR A JOURNEY"

A broadcast in the National Council's *Let There Be Light* series will be heard over radio stations throughout the country during the week of August 11-18. The broadcast will feature the coming Third World Conference on Faith and Order at Lund, Sweden. Your station will appreciate an applause card if you liked the program.

New Filmstrip Ready

A filmstrip — "Ecumenical — Are We?" — in color, will be ready for fall use. With script, \$3.00; transcriptions, \$7.00.

Ecumenical Workbook Available

An ecumenical workbook especially prepared for daily vacation Bible school use is available to teachers or pastors, free on request. The workbook features class participation in exploring the ecumenical idea at the children's level. Ask for "Our Voyage in the Good Ship ECUMENICA."

PENTECOST 1953 FALLS ON MAY 24. MAKE IT, AGAIN, A TIME OF ECUMENICAL EMPHASIS.

BEQUEST FORM

Friends of the World Council who desire to perpetuate by a legacy their interest in the Ecumenical Movement, may use this simple form of bequest:—

I give and bequeath to the Friends of the World Council of Churches, Inc., incorporated under Section 30 of the Membership Corporation Law of New York State on January 27, 1943, the sum of

..... Dollars (\$.....)
to be applied to the use and purpose of said corporation.

.....
(Attested signature)

GRADUATE SCHOOL OPENS IN OCTOBER

The Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies, Chateau de Bossey, Celigny (near Geneva), Switzerland, will open its doors on October 1. The first semester will be in session from October 1, 1952 to February 15, 1953. The syllabus of lectures lists: History and Problems of the Ecumenical Movement, The Church in the New Testament, The Nature of the Church and Its Unity, The Lutheran Churches, The Orthodox Churches, The Theology of Missions and Evangelism, Movements of Thought and Life in Contemporary Christianity, The Christian Critique of Capitalism, Socialism and Communism, The Biblical Basis of Social Ethics, Bible Study (group work and methods), and seminars on several of these themes.

The Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies is organized under the auspices of the Ecumenical Institute of the World Council of Churches in association with the University of Geneva (through its Faculty of Theology).

The purpose of the Graduate School is stated as "to assist in the formation of a generation of servants of the Church who have a first-hand knowledge of the Ecumenical Movement, its background, its goals, its problems, and who may thus become effective workers for the ecumenical cause in their various Churches and countries."

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ECUMENICAL WORKCAMPERS AT WORK

The Youth Department of the World Council of Churches carries on workcamp service projects for young people from 19 to 30, in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, England, Greece, Holland, Italy, the Saar, the United States, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, Thailand, Assam and Japan. Each project is a ministry to a particular human need. Workcamps demand hard work, adaptability, and appreciation of others, and offer opportunity for witness, fellowship and participation in the work of the whole Christian Church.

Besides the camps for which it is itself responsible, the Youth Department cooperates with several Churches which carry programs of international workcamps each summer, helping

to make them more effectively ecumenical, and lists certain camps organized by local or national church groups and approved by national Christian youth councils. Here is the way some of last year's campers evaluated their experience:

One camper stated, "We found that barriers of language, politics and church traditions quickly receded when there was a deeper basis



MAINICHI PRESS

Ecumenical foundations are being laid in Japanese workcamps.

of understanding. Friendship prospered even when words could play little part in its growth. Hard work and a simple communal life provide the foundation of mutual sympathy and respect through which the Holy Spirit can work."

Another said, "Above all there was the worship and prayer in the community. This was the source of our unity, above comradeship and background difficulties, and the deep hatreds which are the legacies of war. Our prayer in the camp, on the work site, in the local church, was the center of our life and work and gave positive direction to them. This work, comradeship and mutual understanding, were the fruits of the Grace we were given in offering the camp as a Christian community, part of the Universal Church of Christ."

(Information on workcamps may be had from the Youth Department, World Council of Churches, 44 East 23rd St., New York 10, N.Y.)



Yugoslav refugee helps build a youth shelter in Germany.

At ten o'clock on Sunday morning the 200 delegates gathered in the small Lutheran church of Willingen for a service of worship and Holy Communion. Hundreds of the townspeople gathered outside the church to watch as the delegates walked by—Danes, Norwegians, Indians, Iranians, Africans, Japanese, Chinese, Americans and others of almost every nationality. The sermon was delivered by Bishop Otto Dibelius, outstanding leader in the German church, who had come from his post in East Berlin.

Following the Bishop's sermon, the sacrament of Holy Communion was celebrated according to the Lutheran rite, and was administered by Dr. Karl Hartenstein, the Prelate of the Evangelical Church in Wurttemberg, and by Dr. Walter Freytag, Director of the German Missionary Council.



REV. CHARLES RANSON
General Secretary of the I.M.C.

LEIPER LEAVING

(Continued from page 1)

"stablished" the work of our hands. But there is much to do and the urgency of the need for what the Council can be in its ministry, and its prophetic mission of Christian unity, has never been greater than at this hour.

—HENRY SMITH LEIPER

THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

UNITED STATES—Thirty-eight U.S. and Canadian denominations now have more than 15,000 missionaries abroad, and are contributing more than \$40,000,000 a year to sustain a world-wide program of Christian witness and service.

JAPAN—A Commission for Study on Strategic Policies of Evangelism, which has been working under the Kyodan (United Church of Japan) for the past two years, has made a preliminary report based on the answers of 133 mission preachers and 608 parish clergy to questionnaires. It recommends: exploring how Japanese civilization with its pagan religious spirit can be Christianized; possibilities of closer cooperation between churches and missions.

CEYLON—Because of the movement, incidentally to the national awakening, to make Buddhism the state religion of Ceylon, the need for Christian literature is reported as especially urgent. The time may soon come when no direct evangelism will be possible.

MALAYA—Among the Singapore-born Chinese there is reported to be considerable bewilderment as to what language should be their mother-tongue, now that they have no other native land than Malaya. The amount of Christian literature available is small. To meet the need and that of Chinese dispersed through the Far East, Christian literature in Chinese will be printed and distributed from Hong Kong.